



**Test Papers
Hub.**

ACT English Practice Paper 1

Full Section Practice — Enhanced ACT Format

5 Passages • 50 Questions • 35 Minutes

How to use this booklet

- Each passage is accompanied by a set of questions. For most questions, choose the word, phrase, or sentence that most effectively expresses the idea, is stated most clearly, or is most consistent with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE."
- Some questions refer not to an underlined portion but to a bracketed number placed in the passage, like this: [14]. These ask about a section of the passage or the passage as a whole.
- For questions about organization, development, and effectiveness, base your choice on the specific requirement stated in the question.

QUESTIONS 1–10

Passage I: The Last Ride of the Pony Express

1. Which choice best corrects the underlined portion?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. He was the first of hundreds of young men whose job
- C. He was the first of hundreds of young men, who's job,
- D. He was the first of hundreds of young men, whose job

2. Which choice most logically completes the sentence and best sets up the information that follows?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. has seemed
- H. seemed
- J. would seem

3. Given that all the choices are true, which one best supports the paragraph's focus on the speed of the relay system?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. which some riders found to be an exhausting and thankless part of the job
- C. an arrangement that had been suggested by an experienced freight-company manager
- D. and a duty that riders were paid a small bonus for completing safely

4. Which choice is most consistent with the concise, matter-of-fact tone established elsewhere in the passage?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. cost the operation more than a few minutes, at most, out of the whole day
- H. cost the operation more than a few minutes of time that could otherwise have been used for something else
- J. cost the operation more than a small handful of minutes here and there

5. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement: "Congress had in fact debated funding a transcontinental telegraph line for several years before construction finally began." Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it explains why the telegraph took so long to complete.
- B. Yes, because it shows that the Pony Express's founders anticipated their own downfall.
- C. No, because it shifts focus to congressional debate rather than the Pony Express's own decline.
- D. No, because the passage never mentions Congress anywhere else.

6. Which choice most effectively corrects the underlined portion?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. folded almost immediately; it could not compete with instantaneous communication
- H. folded almost immediately because it could not compete with instantaneous communication
- J. folded, and almost immediately it could not compete with instantaneous communication

7. The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should it be kept or deleted?

- A. Kept, because it provides a statistic that supports the paragraph's point about the Express's brief but effective run.
- B. Kept, because it explains why the telegraph was invented in the first place.
- C. Deleted, because it repeats information already given earlier in the paragraph.
- D. Deleted, because it contradicts the paragraph's claim that the service operated for only eighteen months.

8. Which choice provides the correct verb form?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. were, by the standards of the era, considered generous
- H. is, by the standards of the era, considered generous
- J. being, by the standards of the era, considered generous

9. Which sequence of sentences makes this paragraph most logical?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Sentence 2 should be placed before sentence 1.
- C. Sentence 3 should be placed after sentence 1, before sentence 2.
- D. Sentence 1 should be placed at the end of the paragraph.

10. Which choice provides the clearest and most effective transition, consistent with the passage's organization?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. yet, however, its legend has outlasted
- H. and yet, in spite of that fact, its legend has outlasted
- J. yet its legend has outlasted

WORKED SOLUTIONS — PASSAGE I

The Last Ride of the Pony Express

1. Correct answer: B

Domain: Conventions of Standard English · Rule tested: Possessive pronoun: *who's* vs. *whose*

- The underlined word needs to show possession ("job" belongs to the young men), not to stand in for "who is" or "who has."
- "Who's" is always a contraction of "who is" or "who has" and can never show possession, no matter how natural it sounds before a noun like "job."
- "Whose" is the possessive form used before a noun to show ownership ("whose job," "whose car," "whose idea"), which is exactly what this sentence needs.
- Choice C adds unnecessary commas around "who's job" without fixing the underlying word-choice error, so it is still wrong.
- Choice D adds a comma that breaks the sentence apart from its restrictive clause ("whose job it would become to relay mail") for no reason, so the cleanest fix is simply swapping in "whose" with no added punctuation.

KEY TAKEAWAY

"Who's" always means "who is" or "who has"; if you can substitute one of those two phrases and the sentence still makes sense, keep the apostrophe. If the word is showing ownership, it must be "whose."

2. Correct answer: H

Domain: Conventions of Standard English · Rule tested: Verb tense consistency

- The passage is narrating the Pony Express in the simple past tense throughout: "galloped," "proved," and later "depended," all past tense.
- "Had seemed" (past perfect) would only be correct if this action happened before another past action already mentioned in the sentence, but there is no earlier past-tense event here for it to precede.
- "Has seemed" (present perfect) incorrectly suggests the impossibility continues into the present, which contradicts the fact that the Pony Express did, in fact, prove it possible.
- "Would seem" introduces a conditional sense that doesn't fit a simple statement of historical fact.
- The simple past "seemed" matches the surrounding narration exactly: the pace seemed impossible, then the Express proved otherwise.

KEY TAKEAWAY

When a passage narrates history in simple past tense, keep every verb in that same simple past form unless a specific earlier or later past event genuinely requires perfect or conditional tense.

3. Correct answer: A

Domain: Production of Writing · Rule tested: Relevance to paragraph focus

- This paragraph's stated focus, established in its first sentence, is the "relentless coordination" that kept the mail moving quickly.
- The original choice ("mounting a new animal in under two minutes before racing on") gives a concrete, specific detail about SPEED — exactly the paragraph's focus — so it stays directly on topic.
- Choice B shifts to how riders FELT about the job, which is an emotional aside, not a detail about the relay's speed or coordination.
- Choice C introduces a new, unsupported claim about who suggested the system, which distracts from